

Articles set downe by the right worshipfull

Thomas Randolph Esquier, Master and Comptroller generall of all her Ma-
iesties Postes, and straightly by him commanded to be kept by the Postes from London, to
the Northerne borders against Scotland, for the better obseruation, and due execution of such
orders, as lately were appointed by the Lords of her Maiesties priue Councill.



First, that euery Post for the seruice of the Packet for her Maiesties affaires, shall haue in his
stable, or in a readinesse throughout the yeere, three good and sufficient post Horses, with sadles
and furniture fitte and belonging. Three good and strong leather bagges well lined with hayes
or cotton, to carrie the Packet in. And three hornes to blowe by the way, as by their Lordships
order is commanded. Whosoever shall faile hereof, at any time when they shall be surueyed, shall
abide the punishment that the Master of the Postes shall lay vpon him.

2 That euery Post, so soone as the Packet directed for her Maiesties affaires shall be brought
vnto him, shall forthwith or within one quarter of an houre after, with all speede and dili-
gence carrie the same, or cause it to be carried to the next Post, according to the orders by their
Lordships also set downe. The breach of this article shall also be punishable at the Master of
the Postes pleasure.

3 That euery Post, either of his owne, or such as he shall keepe or appoint vnder him, shall
haue alwayes in readinesse, foure good and sufficient Post horses, and two hornes, to serue at all occasions for such as ei-
ther by commission, or other wise for better expedition shall ride in Post. And if the number of horses exceede their owne
number, then that they supplie their want, as by their Lordships is prouided for, and set downe.

4 That euery Post from hence forth keep two faire paper bookes, or one large and great one, aswel to register the names,
names, and number of horses, of such as either with commission, or without shall runne the Post, as also to enter the Pac-
kets, that for her Maiesties affaires shall passe and be caried by them. And the same shall signifie at the end of euery moneth,
within ten dayes after vnto the Master of the Postes. And so often as he shall vpon occasions, either generally or parti-
cularly call and send for the same.

5 That no Post shall hazard or send any Packets directed for her Maiesties affaires by any person whatsoever, but by an
express seruant of his owne, and that in Post. Vpon paine of forfeiture of one quarters wages for the first offence, whereof
the halfe to be giuen to the informer thereof whosoever, and the other halfe to bee at the disposing of the Master of the
Postes. And for the second offence, expulsion out of his office, the same being duely prououed against him.

6 That all Postes and guides ryding with any Currier, or Through Post, either with Commission, or without, shall
bring the partie so riding vnto the house and dwelling place of the next standing Post, that is also to furnish him of fresh
horses, or shall signifie the same vnto him (the partie being a personage or man of sort, that for his pleasure will make choise
of his lodging.) And shall not suffer him so ryding, to passe the next ordinarie stage without the consent and liking of the
Post of the place. Vpon paine of forfeiture of ten shillings to the Post offended, and a full restitution of so much as he should
haue gained.

7 Also be it especially and duely obserued by all her Maiesties Postes, as they will answere to the contrary, That if any
Rider, Hackneyman, or other whatsoever, hauing horse to hyre, shall take vpon him contrarie to their Lordships orders
to let any horses with horne and guide, to any man running the Post, either with Commission or without, without
the knowledge and consent of the ordinarie Post of the place where the horses were deliuered (if any Postes there bee ap-
pointed.) The Post of the next stage, by whom he passeth, shall in this case stay and charge the officer with safe custodie of
the horse or conduct, and shall not deliuer anie horses to the partie so ryding, till notice be giuen either to her Maiesties
Secretary, or the Master of the Postes.

8 That no Post or guide ride without his horne, and the same to blow as is prescribed by their Lordships: bee it either
with the Packet, or with Through Post. Neither shall he refuse to carrie the male or other cariage of the partie ryding be-
hind him, so that the same exceede not the weight of fourtie pounds at the vtmost.

9 That no Postes seruant or boy ryding with the packet, shall deliuer any by letters or priuate packets, before he haue
discharged himselfe of the packet for her Maiesties affaires by deliuering the same into the hands of the next standing
Post. vnto whom also he shall commit and deliuer all the by letters and priuate packets aswell as the other, vpon paine of
forfeiture of ten shillings to the Post offended, and the displeasure of the master of the Postes.

10 That no Postes seruant or boy riding with the packet, and hauing by letters or priuate packets, or other kinde of ca-
rriage committed vnto them, shall aduenture to open or breake by, or any other wayes directly or indirectly, shall fraudu-
lently or by stealth or conuey the same wilfully: but shall safely deliuer the same vnto the hands of the next Post as is abovesaid.
And whatsoever he be that shall be found to be faultie herein, he shall lose his Masters seruice, and the Master shall vnderly
punishment as the Master of the Postes shall finde him worthe of.

11 Lastly, Because that the negligence of seruants and boyes hath alwayes bene the greatest cause of the former disor-
ders. And that also to grow and fall out through the small care and want of gouernement in the Masters: These there-
fore in a warning in time to come, shall be to signifie vnto all the Postes in generall. That whose seruant or boy soeuer
shall hereafter either directly or indirectly, breake, disobey, or be found faultie of any of these Articles aboue said. The penal-
ty and forfeiture thereof shall lye vpon the Master himselfe, without fauour or remission.

12 And hereunto I will all her Maiesties Postes to haue a speciall care and regard, as they will answere to the contra-
ry. London, the xiiij. of Januarie. 1583.

Tho. Randolph Comptroller of all her Maiesties Postes.